

Socialism in Jefferson Co.

The Socialist movement in Jefferson county is showing wonderful improvement. Clancy and Basin are the strong centers. Sunday there was a local formed at Boulder. In and around Basin, which is a Heinze camp, there will be a strong Socialist vote. It is generally understood in Basin, by those who watch the political checkerboard, that Heinze and the Amalgamated are one, and that whatever moves Heinze may make in the future, will be to fill his political obligations with the great copper trust. Those sharing this idea, point to the fact that all of the machinery, such as concentrating tables, etc., that are now being placed in the new addition to his concentrator here, are transferred from the Amalgamated company's works in Anaconda. It is understood that Heinze will canvass the state in an automobile. A republican politician here stated that it would be propelled by kerosene power. It will be nothing short of a crime should the Socialists of Jefferson county fail to place a ticket in the field. Last Monday and Tuesday night, Mrs. Ida Crouch-Hazlett delivered lectures in Clancy to large crowds. She is an excellent propagandist. Many new converts were made, and supplied with Socialist literature.

On Wednesday, August 18th, an unfortunate wage slave named David Curley, was caught in the shafting, while oiling machinery, and so badly crushed that he expired a few hours later. The finding of the coroner's inquest was that he was compelled to work in an unsafe and cramped position. The servile corporation lackey, who acts in the capacity of coroner of Jefferson county, one Andrew Less, a furniture dealer at Whitehall, who is a sort of a town joke over there, entertained the jury and onlookers by asking puerile and evasive questions of those sworn to inquire into the sad death of their brother. On rendering their verdict, this limb of the law, who evidently possesses sufficient brains to equip the upper story of an ape, jumped to his feet, and exclaimed: "Gentlemen, you will have to change that verdict; that man was not compelled to work there unless he wanted to." Such are the men whom the wage slaves elect to office. Had the accident happened in the Amalgamated mines in Butte, judging from the past, the jury of brother union men panelled there would have called it "gross carelessness." Socialists do not condemn the individual always, rather the system that make these conditions possible. There are no company stores here in Basin, nor the effects of bossism felt as in other places, on the contrary the miners and smeltermen here are of intelligent and good natured manner, well met.

Quite a number of men are employed in and around Basin. A new railroad will be constructed from Basin to Boulder smelter (12 miles), which insures additional employment. At least twelve mines are being worked in this vicinity, working more or less men. Noteworthy among these is the Eva May mine, otherwise called the "priests' mine," owned by a number of Catholic priests and bishops. Like other clerical mining ventures in this Rocky mountain region, the Eva May has thus far been a non-producer. Thousands and thousands of dollars have been sunk in the mine to no purpose. The property has a splendid concentrator, equipped with the best improved machinery. Commenting upon the radical departures, in the methods of serving God, by the present day immediate workers in the vineyard of Christ, due to the development of commercialism, an orthodox Socialist here has delved somewhat into scripture, and dug up references to the rich young man asking of our Savior what he should do to be saved, in the year 1:

St. Mark, chapter 10, twenty-first verse. Then Jesus beholding him, loved him, and said unto him: One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give it to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven; and come, take up thy cross, and follow me.

Verse 22. And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved; for he had great possessions.

Verse 23. And Jesus looked around about, and saith unto his disciples: How hardly shall they that trust in riches enter into the kingdom of God.

The antithesis is presented in the stock books of the Eva May Mining company in the year 1904:

The Rev. T. J. Meisner, D. D., L.L. D., Cleveland, Ohio, possessor of five hundred shares of Eva May mining stock (ground floor); the Very Reverend F. M. Kettinger, M. W., A. B., Baltimore, Md., one thousand shares Eva May mining stock (2nd floor, watered); the Most Reverend P. P. O'Shaughnessey, B. D., D. G., Oakland, Cal., five thousand shares of Eva May mining stock (3d floor, watered), etc., etc.

Two of the clerical stockholders visited Basin two weeks ago, and are said to be shrewd and excellent business men, well calculated to protect themselves against any technical stock jobbing turn, while on the other hand alert to take advantage of any mining trick, in this extensive category of competition. It is said that a meeting of the stockholders is called to convene in November, the name of the mine is to be changed to Saint Peter (for luck), stock issued on a tenth floor basis, and placed on New York 'change, developments pushed, and great things are in store for the vicinity of Basin.

H. LYNCH.

Review of the State Work

The Montana Socialist party began with the first of August a vigorous fall campaign. The state committee held a meeting and Comrade Kennedy, from Seattle, and myself were brought into the state and put to work. My first meeting was in the Broadway theater at Butte under the auspices of the Mill and Smeltermen's union. Another meeting was held in the Auditorium, and one for the Woman's Protective union. After that several street meetings were held at Butte. Comrade Kennedy began the Butte street meetings for the month, which have been a great success from the first.

On the 8th of August the state tour commenced at Clancy. Here I found the comrades somewhat discouraged, and not sufficient time for advertising the meetings. But we went ahead and held street

meetings with a good attendance. The collections met the demands of the occasion. Comrade Lynch of The Montana News was there also and helped push things along.

Helena was the next date, on the 10th. Here Comrade Walsh's good-natured face was visible on the platform when the train pulled in. There was no complaint here about lack of time, although the word had failed to reach the secretary. When evening came we simply marched down to the corner of Broadway and Main, installed a soap box, which Comrade Walsh mounted, and began to do business. A large crowd gathered and stayed to the end. Books were sold after the meeting, and we then adjourned to the office of The Montana News, where an after meeting was held by the Socialists.

The next date was Great Falls. Two street meetings were held here, which were attended by large crowds, and received a lengthy and exceedingly fair notice in the Tribune. The Socialist ladies of Great Falls had engaged the Carnegie Hall, but in that citadel of capitalism as many of the poor wage slaves are afraid to be seen in a hall at a meeting they wish to attend, because of the company spotters, we thought the streets were best, where those who work for others may still walk or stand still as they see fit.

The next appointment was at Monarch. Here our good friend, and indefatigable worker, Comrade Rector, had done everything in his power to have good meetings. For Saturday evening he had arranged some seats and a stand for outdoor meetings, but the nights were so cool in the mountains that we thought best to hold the other meetings in the hall, which we did on Sunday afternoon and evening. Monarch is a little mountain town that is fast becoming a summer resort of considerable popularity for boarders and campers. This class of persons is the most unprofitable ground in the world for the teaching of any new doctrine or science that requires thought. They are people who never think—small trades and professional people, who do not make as good a living as the well-paid laborer, and yet have a grotesquely exaggerated opinion of their superiority to the working class. They are really the most ignorant class that our lopsided system produces. The workers, even under their disadvantages of over-work and under-pay, develop a certain sort of mental acumen from the necessities of attending to their work and accomplishing something that is necessary and useful. The large moneyed class develop a certain culture from their association with the art and the highest refinements of civilization. But this middle class have no such influences to intellectual activity. They take their thoughts from the toms of the past, are afraid to lose their graft or their profit by any innovations, are fat, overfed, lumpish and stupid, and have to fish or move around, or read Opie Read, to get rid of their own insufferable companionship. These people looked with contempt on a Socialist agitator, and I may say that I gracefully and complacently looked with equal contempt upon them and felt ashamed of their pitiful limitations. It is needless to say that they did not attend the meetings. Oh, no! they knew it all without ever learning anything. All the discoveries of science will roll majestically over them while they sit placidly by and say the earth is flat because it looks so. "What to them are Plato, and the swing of Pleiades?" Nothing, unless it can be measured in an extra big hunk of beefsteak. One of the most interesting points on the trip is Belt. There was a feeling that this capital accursed town was well nigh impregnable. No headway for Socialism had ever been made there. The man to whom we sent our bills and word of the meetings, one Grogan, never came near, never distributed the bills at all, and it was learned that he was a bound hand and foot company tool. To such depths of degradation does the infamous capitalist system reduce the manhood of men that they may earn food for their little ones.

Although only a few were in sight on the streets, I mounted a chair and commenced to talk. Presently a crowd of about 150 was gathered around. They listened with interest, and took everything I had in the way of literature. The Socialists seemed to be as thick as bees around honey. I believe if I could have been there three or four nights that a local could have been organized. I found a good friend, D. E. Sullivan, who will help us out in our meetings hereafter.

The meeting at Neihart was one of the most complete little affairs on the trip. There was not a hitch in the arrangements from beginning to end. The comrades met me at the train, the meeting was first class, the hall was full, they paid up their bills, and in the morning sent me on my way rejoicing.

The comrades at Sand Coulee sent a rig to meet the train at Allen. Things were fixed up here proper, also. In fact I began to think that every place was the best. A fine street meeting had been arranged, with seats and lights provided. An express wagon was made to do duty as a stand with a table in it and literature on sale. Everybody turned out, and for two nights the Socialists had their innings. While here the comrades sent a man from Great Falls to see if they could not have a meeting there Saturday night, as it was going to be well-nigh impossible to make my trains for Helena Sunday and speak two nights in Stockett. Consequently there was but one meeting in Stockett, well arranged, the hall full, under the pains-taking care of Comrade Salsen.

Saturday night proved to be bitter cold at Great Falls, but in spite of the unfavorable weather several hundred people stood in the street and listened to the gospel of freedom.

Sunday night, Aug. 21st, we had a great meeting at Helena on the street. There must have been a thousand people standing there for two hours. Comrade Walsh said their intent look haunted him; that he believed they were beginning to understand the proposition.

I got over to Hamilton for the meeting Tuesday and Wednesday evenings when the State Federation of Labor was convening there. There was considerable of a joke about the arranging of these dates. Of course it was a foregone conclusion that all the labor fakirs in the state, and the hiring political heelers, that bully and befool the laboring class to vote against their own class, should be there. The Socialist comrades engaged the opera house for the two nights. The local labor committee wanted them to surrender it for the convention; but the Socialists were well enough suited as it was, and so the very comfortable spectacle was presented of the day sessions of the Montana labor convention merging into grand Socialist demonstrations at night, much to the chagrin of the Heinze automobile steers. The meetings were immense successes. The big opera house was comfortably filled the first night, and packed the second.

The convention itself was a laughable illustration of the frantic efforts the old parties are making to control the politics of the workingmen. All their schemes of self-protection are nullified unless they possess governmental power. Yet at any mention of political action these yelping tools of the oppressor rushed to the front like a bull at a red flag, and themselves kept the convention a good part of the time on political discussion. That's the way we like to see it working, brothers. All the truth wants is a hearing.

The efforts of the Direct Legislation League of Helena to gain the indorsement of the convention for its referendum bill show the

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Citizens Alliance, Unions, Socialism

It is evident to every man that there is an unfortunate misunderstanding running riot amongst the people of the world regarding the economic situation, and because of that misunderstanding a very disastrous wrong is being done to all alike. All classes must acknowledge that something is radically wrong. This being true, is it not the office of good common sense to ascertain, by a non-partisan, unprejudiced investigation, what it is that is wrong? The conditions existing, and to which attention is called, are part and parcel of the evolutionary development of man, and we, individually and collectively, are being swept by this tide of evolution upon the current of progress notwithstanding the doctrine, "Let well enough alone," enunciated by an eminent man, now departed. Let well enough alone is not in accord with any tenet that nature has vouchsafed to disclose to our senses and, could and had our aboriginal ancestors enforced such a doctrine, science could not now record the successive steps which lead to our present advanced state. Therefore we, of this day and year, must acknowledge this irresistible force of progression and steer our craft to avoid the whirlpools of dissension; we should locate ourselves, as it were, by constant application to the chart of reason. A study of the horizon discloses numerous craft racing, without apparent purpose, along with this evolutionary current, each without chart or compass and reckless of self and wishing disaster to the others, and all trusting to luck. Each is firing blank shots but holds lead in reserve. Is this safe? Is it conducive to order? We hear much of "law and order." Does law, that is man-made law, necessarily bring order? A machine which develops much friction should be and generally is discarded for a better, otherwise power is wasted and progress retarded. Man is distinguished from the beast by the reasoning faculty, which applies reason, the judicial function of the mind. One's bank roll is now the measure of a man, but his stock of reason should be the governing factor. It is not the purpose to suggest here a remedy for or to cast stones at the ills that beset us or to bemoan our conditions. The power of suggestion only is invoked to induce those who are mixed in the fray to meet the question fairly and squarely to the end that we may all begin to realize the inwardness of this social fact or contract into which nature has forced us. This entire problem possesses greater significance than "hours of labor" or "six o'clock closing" indicate, and the man who forces discord to the fore, with his own selfishness as a reason for so doing, is casting a firebrand where cool common sense, fortified with a broad, unselfish, unbiased knowledge of life would dissipate the cause of social ills by evolving a remedy.

We have the Citizens' Alliance, the unions, the unemployed and many other forces or elements that go to make the problem that is demanding a solution; then we have the great movement known by some as co-operation, by others as Socialism. All these are creatures of conditions, elements of evolution and necessary to that solution. Why these elements should not intermingle for the sake of the good cause I do not know. Widely separated camps beget factions and factional or class hatred and useless, senseless war. It is up to us to meet frequently, upon neutral ground, to discuss, in a sane and reasonable manner, all vital questions, then we will not be so likely to impugn each the motives of the other. Let us meet as friends and eliminate, as far as possible, from our councils men whose interest in the question is regulated by graft or profit. The Socialists, in whose behalf this is written, desire peace, but they also demand progress, through exact economic justice for all. They believe that the head and the heart are greater than the gun and lead in the uplifting of man and the solution of our many troubles. The strike, the boycott, lockout, blacklist and ostracism and the bull-pen do no good to anybody.

Deer Lodge County Socialist Have Nominated an Excellent Ticket

The Socialists of Deer Lodge county met in convention at the city hall in Anaconda on Wednesday, August 31, at 8 o'clock p. m. The convention was called to order by J. H. Schwend, chairman of the county central committee. P. A. Tobin read the call, after which Mayor Frinke was elected temporary chairman, and P. A. Tobin temporary secretary. The usual committees were then appointed, and adjournment taken until after the open air meeting on the corner of Park and Main, to allow the delegates the opportunity of hearing the address of Mrs. Ida Crouch-Hazlett. Mrs. Hazlett's meeting was an unqualified success, in point of attendance, in the interest manifested, and in the able, logical and convincing manner in which the speaker expounded the principles of Socialism. At the conclusion of the address, the convention reconvened and the different committees presented their reports. On the recommendation of the committee on credentials, Mayor Frinke was made permanent chairman and P. A. Tobin permanent secretary of the convention.

A clearcut, uncompromising revolutionary platform was adopted, and then the convention proceeded to nominate a county ticket, as follows: State senator, J. H. Schwend; legislative ticket, J. W. Robbins, M. P. Tobin, James P. MacDonald, John E. Blomquist, John Hines and Tony Schey; sheriff, C. C. McHugh; clerk of court, P. A. Tobin; clerk and recorder, O. L. Jebe; county attorney, passed; treasurer, H. A. Denny; assessor, N. E. Levensgood; surveyor, Wm. Welsley; coroner, C. B. Taylor; justices of the peace, James Devlin and Dan Job; public administrator, Chas. Stanton; constables, E. J. Heurvid and J. J. Sladich.

A county central committee, consisting of two members from each precinct and three at large was selected, and given power to fill all vacancies.

Comrade Ida Crouch-Hazlett addressed the convention and several of the delegates spoke on local issues, after which the convention adjourned.

With the above ticket, composed as it is of men to whom not even the faintest suspicion of capitalistic influence attaches, the Socialists of Deer Lodge county make their appeal to the working class. It is composed from top to bottom of class conscious union men, and under ordinary conditions the only element of doubt in connection with the result on November 8th would be as to the size of the plurality of the vote in its favor.